



Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Project Lead: Joel Hartmann

Field Office: Sierra Front

Lead Office: Sierra Front

Case File/Project Number:

NEPA NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2011-0508-DNA

Project Name: MacArthur Exploration Project Plan of Operation Amendment

Applicant Name: Quaterra Alaska Inc.

Project Location: Sections 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, and 36, Township 14 North, Range 24 East, (T14N, R24E), Sections 2 and 3, T13N, R24E, and Sections 19, 20, 29, 30, and 31, T14N, R25E, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M).

A. Description of the Proposed Action:

Quaterra Alaska Inc. (QAI) is submitting a Revision to the MacArthur Exploration Project Plan of Operations N-85212. The existing Environmental Assessment (EA), serialized DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2010-0001, was completed and the Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impacts was signed on October 27, 2009. QAI has redefined their exploration drilling targets since the approval of the existing Plan of Operations (Plan).

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: CCFO Consolidated Resource Mgmt. Plan (CRMP).

Date Approved: 05/09/2001

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

The Proposed Action, a Plan of Operations amendment (POOA) falls under Land Use Allocations described in MIN-1 of the CRMP, "an area open to mineral entry." The following Standard Operating Procedures would apply to locatable minerals operations on lands open to mineral entry according to the CRMP:

- Pursuant to the mining laws, BLM lands are available for mineral entry, location, exploration, and operations which will not cause undue or unnecessary degradation of the public lands.
- Where cumulative surface disturbance of a project area is greater than five acres, a Plan of Operations and a Reclamation Plan are required of the operator. These plans will be reviewed in conjunction with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Bureau of Reclamation and Regulation, to ensure that all State permits are obtained and all State regulations are followed. Plans of Operation may be revised to ensure that

federal and State regulations are complied with to prevent undue or unnecessary degradation.

- Plans of Operation will require adequate bonding to guarantee that reclamation will be accomplished at mine closure or project completion.
- Reclamation is required of all levels of activity so as not to cause undue and unnecessary degradation.
- All mineral exploration roads on cut and fill slopes will be reclaimed by recontouring unless they are within or part of a pre-1981 mining disturbance.
- All levels of activity, casual use, notice, or plan of operation, will comply with federal and State regulations regarding air quality, water quality, solid wastes, wildlife and its habitat, archaeological and paleontological resources.

Name of Plan: NV – Carson City RMP

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2010-0001-EA

QUATERRA ALASKA INC.
MACARTHUR EXPLORATION PROJECT
LYON COUNTY, NEVADA

MacArthur Exploration Project Class III Cultural Survey Report (2008)
MacArthur Exploration Project Botanical Survey (2009)

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes. The new Proposed Action (POOA) involves exploration drilling for locatable minerals which is a feature of the existing EA. The POOA proposes disturbance within the same analysis area (project area). The POOA proposes to change drill hole and road disturbance sites within the project area analyzed in the existing EA.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes. The POOA constitutes a feature of the existing EA/FONSI and Decision Record that was prepared and approved, the proposed plan amendment lies within the same project area and the area of disturbance would be changed. Hence, the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document would still be valid.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, range- land health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes. The existing analysis is valid due to the fact that the POOA is associated with an EA/FONSI and Decision Record that was prepared and authorized, the proposed POOA constitutes a feature of the approved action within the previously analyzed project area. No new information or circumstances have arisen from a resource management prospective since the original NEPA document was completed and it was determined that the impacts associated with the proposed action would be insubstantial. Hence, the POOA would not require a revision of the existing EA.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes. The POOA proposes to disturb less acreage than previously considered and does not involve any action outside of the previously analyzed project area therefore the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts would be similar.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

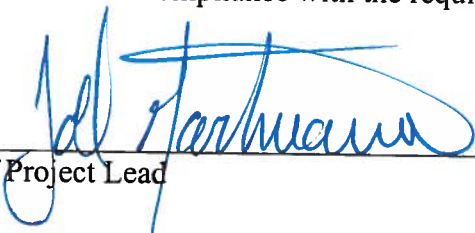
Yes. The POOA is a feature of the proposed action approved in the existing EA, and the public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing EA/FONSI employed appropriate public and agency reviews. Due to the remote location of the initially proposed action, no public scoping or public comment was sought in association with the existing EA. The NDEP was a coordinating agency in association with preparation of the existing EA. NDEP has been contacted and is in concurrence that the subject POOA would not constitute a modification to the existing Reclamation Permit issued to the proponent by NDEP in August 2009. Native American Tribal consultation was ongoing throughout the preparation of the existing EA/FONSI. During preparation of this DNA tribal consultation was reinitiated and no new concerns additional to those already identified in the existing EA have been identified.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agency Represented</u>
Richard Gantt	Environmental Specialist	NDEP
Dan Erbes	Geologist	BLM
Rachel Crews	Archeologist	BLM
Brian Buttazoni	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	BLM

Note: Refer to the original EA for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

Conclusion: Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.



Signature of Project Lead



Signature of NEPA Coordinator



Linda J. Kelly
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

Date July 21, 2011

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.